GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2966
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Distribution of Fertilizers
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of sale and distribution of sub-standard fertilizers;

(b) the action taken against the persons /business houses accused of sale and distribution of sub-standard agricultural inputs;

(c) the quantum of such sub-standard agricultural inputs and the degree of damage caused by their use;

(d) whether the relevant provisions of law are adequate and effective enough to contain this menace; and
(e) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to bring any amendment in the existing law?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): to (e): Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) has laid down the quality parameters in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985to regulate the quality. Specifications of fertilizers quality are prescribed in the said order.
There are 78 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) in the country at present. Similarly, all the fertilizers producing units have well-equipped laboratories where product samples are strictly checked for quality compliance on a regular basis. With this arrangement in place, it is ensured that only standard fertilizers, meeting quality specifications under Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 are despatched to the farmers. Government also provides assistance for setting up of new Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories and strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories.

During the year 2014-15 around 5% samples were found sub-standard and the subsidy dues have been withheld. There are no reports of damage to the crops on account of use of sub-standard fertilizers.

In this regard, Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 has been promulgated to regulate the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers. Specifications of fertilisers are prescribed in the said Order. No person shall sell, sale, offer for sale or distribute any fertilizer which is not of prescribed standard. Samples of fertilizers are drawn periodically by the fertilizer inspectors of the State Governments from retailers/wholesalers and manufacturing units etc. for testing in the notified laboratories to check their quality in respect of the quality parameters prescribed in the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. In case of imported fertilizers, the fertilizer inspectors of the Central Government (Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute and its regional laboratories) draw the samples from the ship/containers at ports.

State Governments are empowered under the Fertilizer (Control) Order/Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take appropriate administrative and legal action against those dealers/manufacturers/importers who do not comply with the provisions prescribed in the Order.

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